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VI.—*Account of Two Expeditions in Central Africa by the Furanys.*

Communicated by Dr. BARTH, through CHARLES BEKE, Esq., F.R.G.S.

Read Jan. 24, 1853.

I SEND a short account of two expeditions made by the Furanys, accompanied by a man whom I have already had many reasons to mention in my accounts of Eastern Sudan. This man, the faki Sambo, is the son of a learned Fellani, and author of a history of Haussa. He is himself well acquainted with Ifatún (Plato) and Aristaw (Aristotle), whose works he possesses; and knows the modern history of the tribes and countries where he now resides. He resided a long time in Darfur, at Fayō, one day S. of Ammajura.

Starting from Koriō, a market-place about 30 English miles S. of Teudelti, you arrive on the—

- 1st day at Kirāno, a Fellani village.
- 2nd , Kirro, a settlement of the Beni Hálba.
- 3rd , Nitaega, a village peopled by Fellani and Bornu people.
- 4th , Jakhna, of the Beni Hálba, with their Sheikh Mahe.
- 5th , , a mountain inhabited by the Dajo.
- 6th , Simmama, the seat (about 30 years ago) of Abadima, the governor of the Said.
- 7th , Nyala, a place inhabited by Furanys.
- 8th , Sölüj.
- 9th , Ammajura.

This road is the westernmost of the three itineraries collected by me, but does not touch the Jebel Mara, which does not extend so far south as has been supposed. *Direction*, S., a little W.

After he had settled at Fayō the faki Sambo accompanied two expeditions from these southern regions to Darfur, one thirty and the other twenty-eight years ago.

Before giving an account of these expeditions I send a short itinerary from Ammajura to the copper mines, known throughout the whole of the eastern part of Sudan under the name of *el Hófrah*.

- 1st day Dar Bárra, a district inhabited by the Massalit.
- 2nd , e' Siréf, tarf e' dar, that is to say, the southernmost place of Darfur.
- 3rd , Rijl el Gárret, a standing water in the wilderness.
- 4th , Gosdángo, another resting-place, without constant inhabitants.
- 5th , Augiláko, temporarily frequented by Habbane, and by Fellani cattle-breeders.
- 6th , Ilébo.
- 7th , El Hófrah, a large place inhabited by a mixed population of Furanys, Jellabas, Bornouese, Dajo, Nuba, &c.; close to it are the mines, whence copper is obtained, partly in pure lumps, partly mixed with earth.

Direction, S., a little W.

I now give an account of the *second* of the two expeditions forming the subject of this communication.

This expedition, starting from Ammajura, reached on the—

- 2nd day Idaera, the frontier place of the southern districts of Darfur towards the west, and the residence of a governor.
- 5th , Serir, a settlement of the Dar el Taasha.
- 6th , Dar Ming, a pagan country, situated to the E. of Rúnga.

- 9th day Binga, another pagan country, bounded towards the E. by Gulla, that is to say Gulla el Furany, while Gulla el Wadany is situated W.S.W. from Rúnga.
- 10th ,,, Shala, a mountainous pagan country, distant only one day from el Hófrah.
- 12th ,,, Lara, likewise mountainous.
- 13th ,,, Wauga, an extensive pagan country, proceeding through which the expedition arrived on the
- 17th ,,, at a small river flowing eastward, and called by them Bahr el Adda.
- 18th ,,, Dar Banda, a pagan country of great extent, bordered towards the north by the Bahr el Adda, partly mountainous and partly flat, and inhabited by pagans of light copper colour. Continuing through this country for 20 days, they reached on the
- 38th ,,, Bimberi, another pagan country of less extent, inhabited by a black population. Passing through this flat country for three days, the expedition arrived on the
- 41st ,,, in Kubauda, a large place, extending for about 10 or 12 miles along the banks of a river so large that they could with difficulty make out persons standing on the southern bank, and not fordable. This river runs straight from east to west, and is bordered principally by very large trees called kumba, which bear a fruit similar to the date. They were told that beyond this river there were people with black camels like those of the Rufa ; but my informant himself thinks this to be merely a joke. Not being able to cross the river, the expedition retraced its steps from Kubauda. The colour of the people is black.

Direction, as far as Dar Ming W., very little S. ; from thence directly S.

Rate of travelling, about 20 English miles per day.

The *first* of the two expeditions took the same direction as the second as far as the Bahr el Adda ; but, after having crossed that river, they turned west, a little south ; and, passing through Dar Banda in that direction for 15 days, and crossing many watercourses, they entered Bimberi, which country encircles Banda from S. to W. With these people they fought several times, but were not able to make many of them slaves ; the enemy fighting desperately, cutting the bodies of the slain into pieces, and carrying these on their heads, in order to feast on them afterwards, as my informant thinks. Having passed the Bimberi they came to several smaller pagan kingdoms, all of which they subjugated, carrying great numbers of the inhabitants into slavery. Still continuing in an almost westerly direction, they finally came to another large kingdom, inhabited by a warlike race, called Andoma. This country was found to consist of a deep sandy soil, flat, and covered with a great profusion of trees, the principal of which were the banana (*mus*), the butter-tree (*tabur* in Bagirmi), and the olive-tree (*zitum*), which my informant, who has resided several years in Egypt, states to be exactly the same tree as that of the coast of the Mediterranean, while the *delēb* was limited to certain localities. In that part of the country my informant saw no river or watercourse whatever. The expedition went on for 3 days, driving the inhabitants before them. When they came to their capital the enemy collected there in such numbers, and fought so desperately with their *korbatsh* or hand-iron, a sort of double axe about two feet in length, entirely made of iron, that the Furany thought it prudent to retire in as honourable a manner as they could. Sending therefore their interpreter to Andoma, the king, who was seated on a throne constructed of elephants' tusks, laid one above the other, they presented him

with some silken shirts, and made peace with him, but without complying with his entreaty that they should encamp on the spot. On the contrary, having received a present of 10 oxen and 100 fat sheep, they thought it more prudent to make off at a sharp pace towards N. by E., where they came to another pagan country called Mara, which my informant thinks must be near the country of the Bua.

I have now to mention a very curious phenomenon of natural history, which my informant saw on this expedition, though I am unable to make out, from his description, what it really was. Passing the country of Bimberi (?), they came suddenly to a spot where the soil, as my informant expresses himself, was boiling over the water and bubbling up. They therefore called it *Bakr el Ardha*, "the water-stream of the earth."

VII.—*Report on the Return of Lady Franklin's vessel the Prince Albert, under the command of Mr. Wm. Kennedy, from the Arctic Regions.*

Read Nov. 8, 1852.

MR. PRESIDENT,—It having been ascertained during the spring of 1851 that an important part of the field of search for the missing Arctic expedition could not be explored by any of the ships then engaged or about to be engaged in the service, it was resolved to equip a supplementary expedition for the examination of the portion thus unprovided for. The part alluded to includes Prince Regent's Inlet, and the passages or isthmuses connecting it with, or dividing it from, the western sea, S.W. of Cape Walker, to which latter quarter Sir John Franklin was required by his instructions to proceed in the first instance. This search was assumed to be necessary on the following grounds:—first, the probability of Sir John Franklin having abandoned his vessels to the S.W. of Cape Walker; secondly, the fact that when Sir John Franklin sailed he believed that an open passage was to be found from the westward into the south part of Regent Inlet, according to the chart supplied to him from the Admiralty, and which does not exhibit the discoveries which have been made by Rae and others subsequently to that period; thirdly, Sir John Franklin, it was supposed, would be more likely in retreating to take this course through a country known to possess the resources of animal life, with the wreck of the Victory in Felix Harbour for fuel, and the stores of Fury Beach further north, in view, than to fall back upon an utterly barren region of the north coast of America. Upon these grounds, and in the absence of any information up to that time as to the route Franklin had taken after passing through Lancaster Sound, was founded the necessity of an auxiliary expedition for the special object above stated; and accordingly, in May, 1851, a small vessel, the Prince Albert, was fitted out to